ACROSS / A17

Panlilio: PNP blocking war on 'jueteng'

BUSINESS / B1

2008 inflation seen at fastest pace in 3 years

WORLD / A28

Hezbollah ends takeover of west Beirut

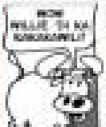
LEARNING / E1

How can we teach values in a corrupt society?

NEWS / A2

Revamp starts: Bunye to join Monetary Board

'Wowowee' fans upset over no-show by stars



HONOLULU—Where in the world is Willie?

More than 200 fans waited for hours and paid $100 (P4,246) each to attend a private party

'WOWOWEE' / A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, May 12, 2008 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 156 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Piston leads strike today; gov't expects little impact

By Riza T. Olchondra

JEEPNEY DRIVERS AND OPERATORS BElonging to Piston vowed to stay off the streets of Metro Manila and some provincial cities today, but transport officials predicted the strike would have minimal impact in the face of a refusal by other driver groups to join it.

PISTON / A11

Burma junta focuses on vote amid misery

RANGOON—DESPERATE survivors of Cyclone Nargis poured out of the Irrawaddy delta on Sunday in search of food, water and medicine and aid workers said thousands of them would die if emergency supplies did not get through soon.

Despite alarm bells from the international community, the military government of Burma (Myanmar) kept its focus on the holding of a national referendum to ratify a new constitution. Critics said Saturday's vote was aimed at nothing more than solidifying the generals' 46-year grip on power.

"Unless there is a massive and fast infusion of aid, experts and supplies into the hardest-hit areas, there's going to be a tragedy on an unimaginable scale," said Greg Beck of the International Rescue Committee.

Burma's reclusive military rulers are accepting aid from the outside world, including the United Nations, but they have made it clear they will not let in the foreign logistics teams needed to transport the aid into the inundated Irrawaddy.

The junta has insisted on handing out all donated supplies on its own. With roads blocked and bridges submerged, however, reaching isolated areas in the hard-hit delta has been made all but impossible.

The military has only a few dozen helicopters, most small and old. It also has only about 15 transport planes, few of which are able to carry massive amounts of supplies.

Instead of stepping up relief efforts, the junta set up polling stations close to Buddhist temples and schools, which had been transformed into makeshift refugee centers for women, children and the elderly—some of the 1.5 million people clinging to survival.

Human rights groups have bitterly accused the junta of neglecting the disaster victims in going

JUNTA / A11



A BOY joins village elders lining up for cooking oil donated by local businessmen in Kaunna near Kandangon in cyclone-stricken Burma.

Meralco breakup eyed

GSIS chair bares plans to lower electric rates

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM CHAIR Winston Garcia plans not only to buy out the Lopez family and other shareholders in Manila Electric Co. but to break up as well the firm's concession to promote efficiency and transparency.

The GSIS president and general manager said in a phone interview yesterday that he would cut up the P75-billion power distribution company the same way the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) franchise area was divided after it was privatized in 1997.

"We are very much interested, we think Meralco is a good investment," Garcia said. "My plan is to take full control of Meralco and split it up into two or more sub-franchises. This worked very well in the MWSS privatization."

Elpi Cuna, Meralco vice president for corporate communication, doubted the company's 50-year franchise could be subdivided. "It's a total package and the way it is worded, you have to go back to Congress to get permission," said Cuna, speaking for Meralco, not for the Lopez family.

Garcia spoke to the Inquirer on the eve of the first hearing called by the Joint Congressional Power Commission chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor

MERALCO / A11

P1.1B set aside for cash dividends

By Norman Bordadora

MANILA ELECTRIC CO., WHICH IS facing a congressional inquiry for alleged excessive pricing, has set aside more than P1.1 billion in cash dividends this year for its 80,000 stockholders that include two Lopez-controlled firms and the Government Service Insurance System, a Cebu congressman said yesterday.

P1.1B SET ASIDE / A11



COUNTDOWN GSIS Chair Winston Garcia gestures during a talk with editors of the Inquirer in Makati City in this file photo.

Business fears lynch mob unleashed on Meralco

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ALL-OUT war to take over Meralco, the country's biggest electricity distributor, has struck fear in the business sector. Some business groups are apprehensive that they, too, could be victims of the government crackdown.

The fears were heightened following a rapid succession of punitive actions taken by the Arroyo administration over the past few weeks against Meralco over its high electricity rates in a bid to crush the economic power of the Lopez group which controls the utility's management.

These actions include the deployment of the giant pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), which holds four seats in the 11-member Meralco board to the Lopez group's five seats and which owns 33 percent of Meralco stock, in a takeover bid. To

BUSINESS / A11

Probers of power rates blame Epira

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) is likely to be the first casualty of the Joint Power Commission (Powercom) investigation beginning today, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Senator Arroyo said Epira was certain to be blamed for the high electricity bills that some legislators had said were the fault of either National Power Corp. (Napocor) or Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), or both.

While he found the Powercom hearing long overdue, Arroyo sounded other power utilities and telecommunication companies that this was just the first in a series of congressional inquiries into the "excessive profits" of franchise utilities in the country.

"The hearing is a good way to know why power rates are high. The only question is whether this will lead to lower electricity rates because if it doesn't, I don't know what this exercise is for," Arroyo said in a radio interview over dzBB radio.

While media have been replete with fault-finding between Napocor and Meralco on the high power rates, Arroyo said the questions would ultimately lead to the Epira flaws which after seven years had not achieved any of its declared objectives to reduce power rates.

PROBERS / A11

Chief Justice: No magic bullet against assassins

By Leila B. Salaverria

(Last of four parts)

LIFE HAS BEEN A BIT EASIER for Ronel Monsanque—the first beneficiary of the writ of amparo—since he was freed from military detention in November last year.

What happened to Monsanque, a leader of the leftist group Bayan Muna accused of being a New People's Army guerrilla, is nothing more than a distant memory now.

Still, he remembers what it was like to be feared by soldiers to name communist sympathizers, to be hit with the butt of a gun, and threatened with gory tales of the fate of uncooperative people.

Relief for Monsanque came when a Pagadian court directed the military to release him after his family invoked the judicial remedy intended to safeguard the life, liberty and security of victims or those under threat of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Yet his life has not returned to normal, says Monsanque's lawyer, Tirzaule Folopanoy. "He had this experience with the military. That would continue to haunt him for long periods of time," the lawyer said.

i-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

Since the adoption last October of the writ of amparo, less blood has been shed and fewer lives have been disrupted, says Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

But Puno says that the proscription of President Macapagal-Arroyo with wiping out the decades-old communist insurgency by the end of her term in 2010 could fuel human rights violations. "It

CHIEF JUSTICE / A11

A NIGHT OF MIXED SHOWERS Hundreds of spectators are treated to a fabulous display of fireworks despite a night of sudden downpour, courtesy of an entry from France to the World Pyrotechnic Olympics in Pasay City. The yearly competition will run for two more Saturdays at the back of SM Mall of Asia.



2 RP indies in Cannes boost hopes

A CANNES FESTIVAL CALL-UP FOR two independent films is raising hopes of a rebirth for the struggling Philippine movie industry, which has been hit by rampant piracy, high taxes and foreign imports.

"Serbis," an edgy drama by Brillante Mendoza, is competing for the festival's coveted Palme d'Or. It's the first Filipino film to be in with a shot at the top prize since the late Lino Brocka's "Bayan Ko" (My Country) in 1984.

2 RP / A11

Second FRONT PAGE

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P80,444,851.20

Bunye moving to Monetary Board

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESS SECRETARY AND PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Ignacio Bunye will join the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, on June 22.

Bunye yesterday said he would stay on as presidential spokesperson in the meantime.

"In addition, the President has asked me to serve in the interim as Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, the post now being held by Secretary Ronaldo Puno in a concurrent capacity," Bunye said in his "View from the Palace" newspaper column.

He said he would announce his successor as press secretary in the next few days.

Bunye's announcement came two weeks after President Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed a Cabinet revamp was forthcoming.

Bunye said he and President Arroyo had been discussing his move to the Monetary Board as early as October last year.

"This is a matter I have discussed with the President since last year to fulfill a wish of going back to banking, a career which was cut short by the Edsa revolution, which led to my appointment as OIC mayor of Muntinlupa by then President Corazon Aquino," he said.

He acknowledged his background as a banker had been obscured by the fact that different positions he has held the past years.

Mayor, MMA chair

Bunye had served as municipal and then city mayor of Muntinlupa for 12 years. At the same, he also served as chair of the Metropolitan Manila Authority, the predecessor of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Bunye then became the first congressman of the lone district of Muntinlupa in 1998.

A lawyer by profession, Bunye has served in various executive positions in the Ayala group of companies.

BPI, investment exec

"Before I accepted the post of OIC mayor of Muntinlupa, I was assistant vice president in the Bank of the Philippine Islands from 1983 to 1986, doing corporate finance and, before that, I was assistant vice president in Ayala Investment and Development Corp. from 1980 to 1983, handling international operations," he said.

"During those years, one of my principal responsibilities was to arrange foreign currency financing for prime Philippine companies in coordination with offshore banking units, among them Bankers' Trust, whose country manager at the time was former Finance Secretary Lito Camacho.

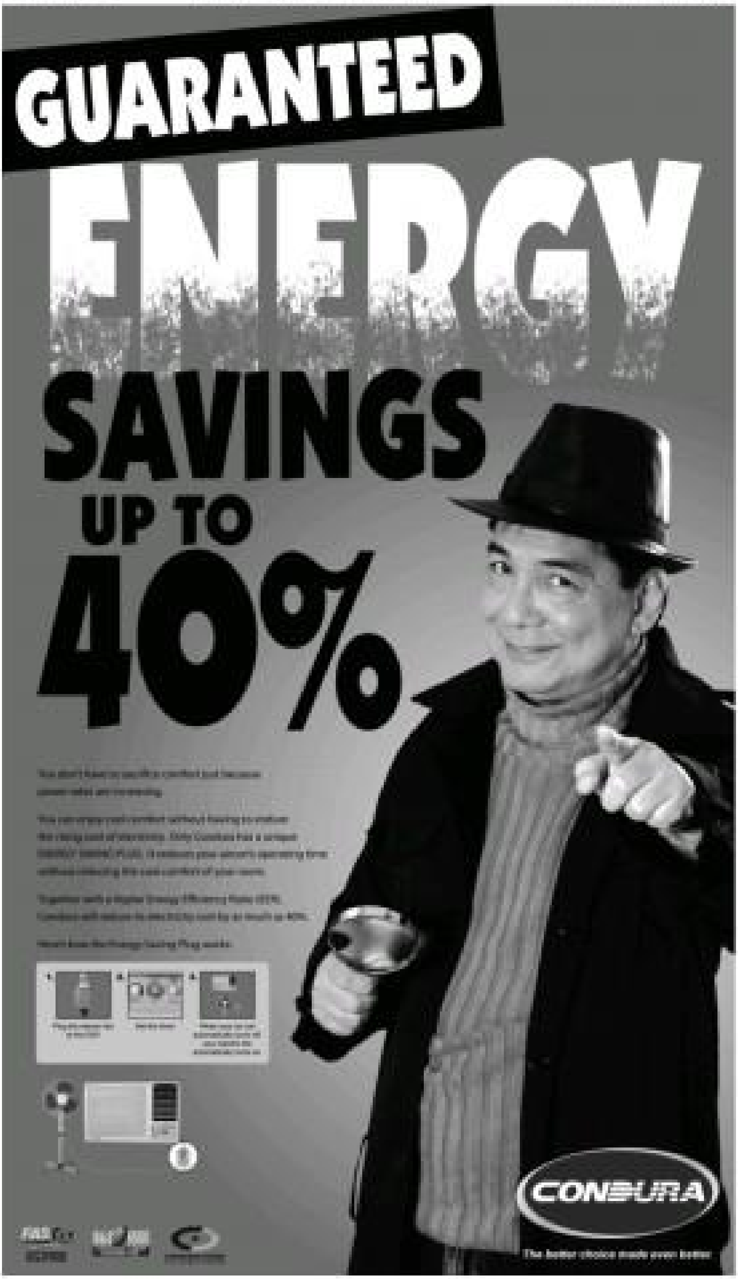
Bunye said it had been an honor and a pleasure to serve in the team of President Arroyo.

Faith in GMA

"As I have expressed many times in the past, I can and will continue to serve President Arroyo in any capacity. I totally believe in her ability to govern this nation and to make the bold and difficult decisions to move it closer to first world status by 2020."

Bunye assumed the post of presidential spokesperson on Jan. 20, 2005.

He previously held the position of press secretary from July 16, 2002, to Jan. 19, 2005. On Aug. 24, 2004, he was again appointed press secretary and concurrent spokesperson.



Lower education cost, GMA orders

AFTER FOOD AND ELECTRICITY, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is now looking at ways to hold down the cost of education.

Presidential Management Staff Secretary Cerge Remonde said yesterday the President had ordered education officials to explore ways to prevent tuition increases in state universities and colleges (SUCs).

Remonde said Ms Arroyo instructed him Saturday to discuss this matter with Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) chair Romulo Neri and that he already did.

"Ched chair Neri will hold consultations with SUCs officials," Remonde said in a phone interview.

He said the consultations will be held immediately. There are more than 100 SUCs in the country.

Private schools have indicated they will be increasing tuition this school year.

The President, Remonde said, is genuinely concerned about the rising costs of oil, food and electricity.

With food prices rising around the world, the government has moved to ensure that the country's main staple, rice, will be available and affordable to the people, Remonde said.

It recently unveiled an action plan aimed at stabilizing the supply of rice and distributing government-subsidized grain to the poor. The President also ordered a crackdown against rice hoarders.

Remonde said the President had also ordered energy regulators to investigate the electricity charges of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and try to bring them down. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Bishop: Church really liberal toward gays

By Jeannette I. Andrade

[illegible]

Pinoy papal envoy to Haiti

[illegible]





TAMA NA ANG BOLAHAN!!!

BUMABA PA NGA ANG MERALCO FEES SA NAKARAANG LIMANG TAON.

Tatlo Lang Po Ang Sources Of Income Ng Meralco. Ito'y Nakikita Ninyo Sa Meralco Bill: **DISTRIBUTION, SUPPLY AT METERING** Fees.

Ang **TRANSMISSION** fee ay pumupunta sa TRANSCO.

Ang **GENERATION** fees ay pinapasa sa NAPOCOR at ang tatlong independent power producers (IPP) ng MERALCO.

Ang **TAXES** at **UNIVERSAL CHARGE** (U.C.) ay binabayad sa gobyerno

Ang **SYSTEMS LOSS** allowance ay normal, usual at standard allowance na ginagamit ng lahat ng distribution utilities sa buong Pilipinas at buong mundo. (see separate ad)

Breakdown of Average Electric Bill from Meralco

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Meralco Charges	**1.11**	**1.08**	**1.06**	**0.98**
Distribution	0.76	0.74	0.73	0.65
Supply	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22
Metering	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11
Transmission	**0.86**	**0.78**	**0.85**	**0.92**
System Loss	**0.47**	**0.61**	**0.63**	**0.63**
Generation	**3.52**	**4.73**	**4.81**	**4.81**
Meralco IPPs	4.63	4.65	4.72	4.16
NPC	2.94*	4.45	4.69	5.08**
WESM (NPC)	N/A	N/A	5.62	7.18
Taxes & U.C.	**0.18**	**0.23**	**0.72**	**0.74**
TOTAL	**6.05**	**7.36**	**8.04**	**8.05**

* NPC sustains losses of over 200 Billion Pesos for over 3 years resulting in the passage of the E-VAT law in 2005

** NPC accused by ERC of overcharging consumers from July 2006 - March 2008

NOTE: 2003: (Jan-Dec), 2008, (Jan-Mar)

WAG NA TAYONG MAGPABOLA !!!

Gumagamit ang MERALCO ng **Socialized Pricing** sa kanyang pagsingil ng kanyang distribution charge para sa mga residential customers:

kWh Consumption	P/kWh Rate
50	0.57
300	0.88
400	1.16
500 pataas	1.66

Gumagamit ang MERALCO ng **Socialized Pricing** para sa low consumption households. Ito ang **Lifeline Discounts**.

kWh Consumption	Average kWh Rate	Total Bill
50	4.45	PhP 223
70	5.80	406
100	7.16	716
200	9.09	1818
300	9.42	2826

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Cebu - Butuan v.v.
Cebu - General Santos v.v.
Cebu - Tacloban v.v.
Cebu - Davao v.v.*
Cebu - Iloilo v.v.*
Cebu - Puerto Princesa v.v.*
Manila - Calbayog vice-versa (v.v.)
Manila - Cauayan, Isabela v.v.
Manila - Legaspi v.v.
Manila - San Fernando, La Union v.v.
Manila - San Jose, Occ. Mindoro v.v.
Manila - Surigao v.v.
Manila - Virac, Catanduanes v.v.
Cebu - Cagayan de Oro v.v.
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BCDA

Student leader seeks writ to stop 'agents'

By Tina G. Santos

[illegible]

Special trip

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House visit

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Missing Briton found in Visayas

[illegible]

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Ceasefire to hold despite Malaysian pullout–Palace



T. Rey Jr., DAP founder, was 64





Read-Along in largest mall focused on moms

By Elso Victoria
Inquirer Research

THE DAY STILL BELONGED TO MOTHERS during yesterday's Inquirer Read-Along session held for the first time in the country's biggest mall.

The session, held in the atrium of SM Mall of Asia, featured Pinoy Dream Academy contender RJ Jimenez and returning Alitaptap storyteller Charlyn Chua as readers.

The Read-Along program, which aims to promote love of reading among children aged seven to 13 through storytelling sessions, was launched on May 8 last year as an initiative of the Inquirer Research Department, Inquirer Library and Junior Inquirer.

It celebrated its first anniversary on Saturday with a photo exhibit, two-day book fair and a Read-Along session with the theme "Amazing Moms (Amazing Kuwento)" featuring celebrity moms Lani Mercado and Daphne Oseña-Paez.

Yesterday's session was opened by Inquirer mascot Cepita dancing to the rap hit "Low," which attracted a huge crowd.

Chua read "Why is Mommy Late?" the story of a young girl impatiently waiting for her mother to pick her up from school. The young audience, despite the mall's distractions, were cooperative.

"The children were very active, very responsive," Chua said. "The book [I read] had illustrations where you had to find the character's mommy and they were really studying those drawings."

Personal twist

While Chua read her story, singer RJ Jimenez was a bundle of nerves backstage.

"This was my first time reading to children," he said. "[Chua] was very good. After watching her, I felt nervous."

Jimenez, a former contestant in the reality talent search "Pinoy Dream Academy," read Rene O. Villanueva's "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola," but added a personal twist: He read the story in the first person.

"I'm going to tell you a story about my grandmother," he told the children.

Did he plan this?

"I did," he said, smiling. "I thought the audience would understand the story better if I added something personal. That's what I do when I write my songs."

Jimenez ended the session by singing "All My Life" and his own composition titled "Mas Kita 'Nag Pamilya."

He dedicated both songs to all the mothers present in the atrium.

"I enjoyed reading to the kids," he said. "I would love to do this again."

Next session

The children who attended the session were given free copies of Junior Inquirer and a chance to join the JI Club which gives members discounts in partner stores and participation in special events.

JI staffer Ruth Navarro said members will have an exclusive Read-Along session with a celebrity reader of their choice.

Sessions are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the Inquirer office on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City.

Inquirer Read-Along has had a total of 30 sessions, featuring over 40 celebrity readers, and has held storytelling sessions in venues outside the Inquirer office, including an orphanage, Philippine General Hospital and malls.

The next session, scheduled on May 24 at the Inquirer office in Makati, will feature broadcast journalist Karen Davila.

Interested parties may call Ellen Cagurao or Gilda Bylosa at 897-8808 local 329. Those interested in donating books for the program may e-mail inquirer.readalong@inquirer.com.ph



FORMER Pinoy Dream Academy contender RJ Jimenez reads a story as children and moms sing to music, at yesterday's Inquirer Read-Along Session at SM Mall of Asia.

New disturbance to bring rains

MONDAY IS EXPECTED TO BE "WET" in many parts of the country even as Typhoon "Butchoy" continues to move farther away north from the country, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said a low pressure area has been spotted 300 km northwest of Mindoro.

In its 5 p.m. weather bulletin, Pagasa said southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao would have cloudy skies and scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms today.

Widespread rains are expected over the western portions of the Visayas and Mindanao, including Palawan.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southeast to northwest will prevail over northern Luzon.

Winds coming from the southwest and west will prevail over southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. There will be moderate to rough seas in these areas.

Metro Manila will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers while Manila Bay will be moderate to rough.

At 2 p.m. yesterday 'Butchoy' was spotted 990 kilometers east of Basco, Batanes, moving north northwest at 24 kph.

It was packing winds of up to 175 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 210 kph.

Norman Bordadora

The Daily Gospel

Monday, May 12, 2008
6th Week in Ordinary Time
Nereus and Achilleus / Pancras

1st Reading: Jas 1:1-11
Gospel: Mk 8:11-13

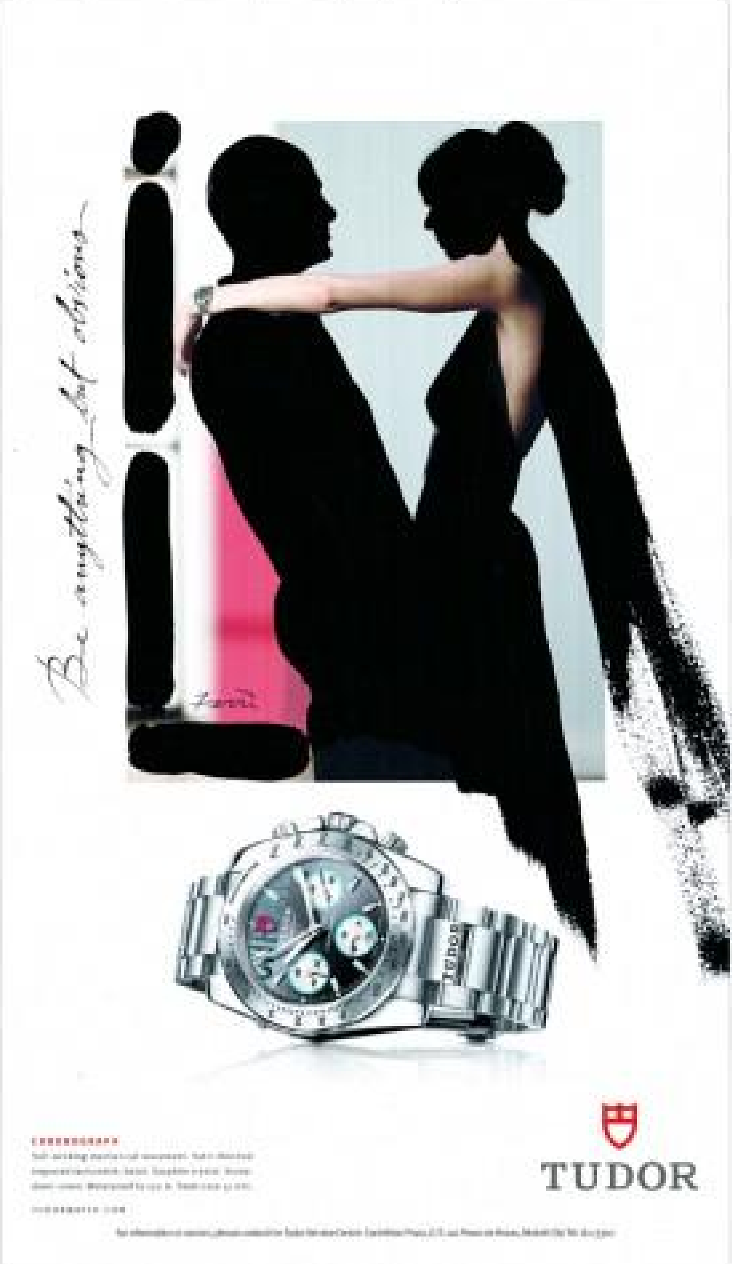
The Pharisees came and started to argue with Jesus. Hoping to embarrass him, they asked for some heavenly sign. Then his spirit was moved. He gave a deep sigh and said, "Why do the people of this present time ask for a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this people." Then he left them, got into the boat again and went to the other side of the lake.

Commentary

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert, ...

Jesus' response to the Pharisees ...

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H1	Shanghai 3-4 Days	Mon, Wed, Fri
H1-1	Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4-6 Days	
C1AA	Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6-8 Days	Tues, Fri
C1A	Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6-8 Days	Tues, Fri
C1B	Beijing, Xian, Guilin 6-8 Days	Friday
C1C	Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 8-10 Days	Wed, Fri
G	Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai 3-5 Days	Friday
M	Xiamen, Quanzhou, Fuzhou 3-5 Days	Saturday
TC	Chongqing, Chengdu, Mt Emei 4-5 Days	Friday
CGC	Guilin 4 Days	Friday

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

On the brink

EDITORIAL



Those pro-Meralco advertisements

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Defending God

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Federalism soon?

SOUNDING BOARD



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Catholic overpopulation, in a non-Catholic rice crisis

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

The mandate of heaven

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

Changing of the guard

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

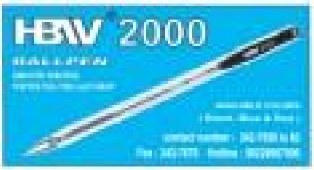
THEY SAID

Commitment to a free press

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Law on how to sing the national anthem widely ignored







Why dignify the shady?

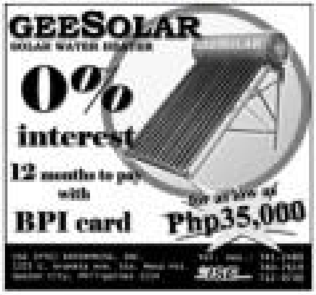


Across the NATION

Panlilio: PNP blocking war on 'jueteng'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA GOV. Eddie Panlilio has criticized the chief of police in Central Luzon for what to him were attempts to frustrate a multisectoral campaign to free the province from the illegal numbers game jueteng.





CA reverses Palawan court on mine firm

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS REVERSED a lower court order stopping mining firm ...

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is going IT at Informatics."



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Pangasinan recalls 1st Mother's Day in 1917







Commercial farmers encroach on forests, say DENR officials

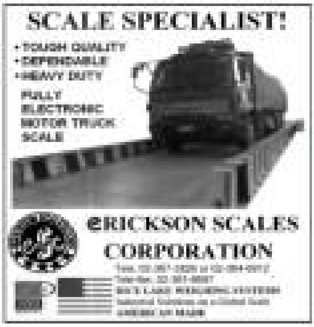
Complaints

Falling forest cover

Brace for $200 per barrel of oil, says energy exec

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas













Mortgaging of gov't funds sought for education

[illegible]



OFFERING

[illegible]

GMA may yet suspend VAT on oil—Remonde

[illegible]





Chief Justice Puno: No magic bullet against assassins



PUNO

Antisubversion law

Killings part of antiinsurgency

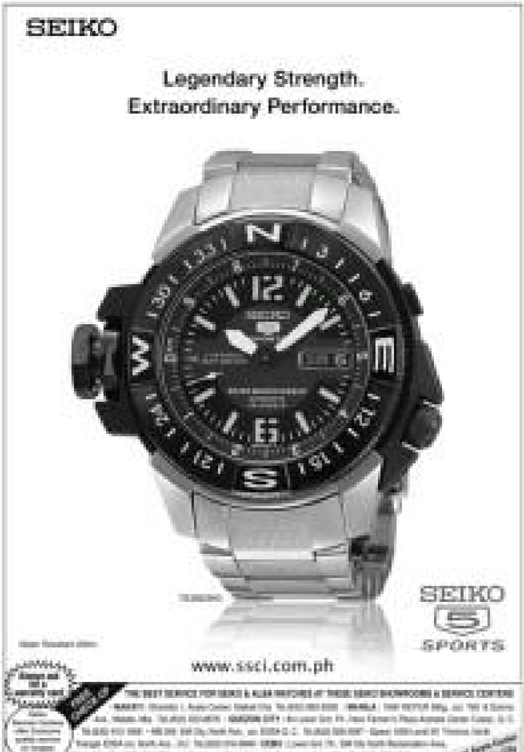
Remedy successfully used

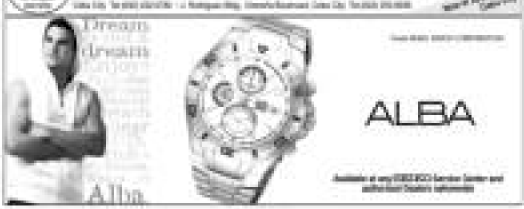
Deterrent vs illegal orders

Special courts

Not a cure-all







P1.1B set aside for cash dividends

Meralco confirmation

Regular dividends

CA dismisses rape case vs 13-year-old

Meralco breakup eyed; GSIS chair bares plans to lower rates

Premium over market price

Lopezes still to prove mettle

Competition to reduce rates

Probers of power rates blame Epira

Other franchise holders

Business fears lynch mob unleashed on Meralco

Setback to privatization

Reminiscent of Marcos

Media alarmed

Business not amused

Piston leads PUV strike today

$100 per barrel

Piston sees success

MMDA not worried

Won't join strike

Junta focuses on vote

Long lines of refugees

UN appeal for aid

Referendum delayed

Preventing outbreaks

Vote denounced

'Wowowee' fans upset over no-show

'Terrible'

2 RP indies in Cannes boost hopes

Reality vs fantasy

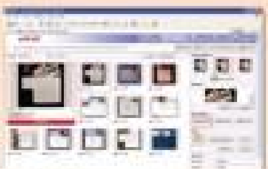
'Don't care, don't know'

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NBI agents nab 9 in Manila drug raid

Alleged gang leader among those arrested

By Tina G. Santos

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation arrested the other day nine people, including the alleged leader of a big-time drug syndicate, during a raid on a suspected drug den in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

[illegible]



FLASH OF LIGHT
Bolts of lightning light up the sky in Metro Manila on Saturday night, just before a heavy downpour.



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METRO
Citizen's call

Dangerous area on Marconi Street

Rude bank guard

Problematic rice mill



BLOCKING FORCE ON TAYUMAN STREET

METRO BRIEFS

Guard nabbed

Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

3 women accused of ganging up on man inside QC bar

Argument

Help from the police

TransCo

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THREE-PHASE PROTECTIVE RELAY TEST SET

Dream come true for Marikina City police chief

DID YOU KNOW

WorldBriefs

Sudan Army beats back rebel attack on capital

Violence eases in Baghdad slum after truce

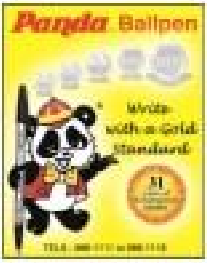
Canada: No infectious disease outbreak

Americans driving less as gas prices skyrocket

Obama overtakes Clinton in battle for the superdelegates



A T-SHIRT bearing a likeness of Obama on the cover of Time magazine being sold at an Oregon high school on May 10.







The WORLD

Hezbollah ends west Beirut takeover

TRIPOLI, LEBANON—FIERCE BATTLES RAGED IN northern Lebanon between rival clans on Sunday leaving at least one person dead even as the Hezbollah-led opposition handed control of the capital Beirut to the army.

[illegible]

AFP

SMART

GOLD

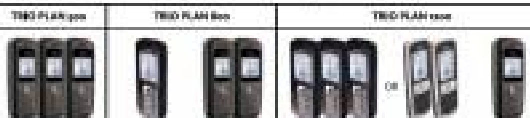


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SPORTS

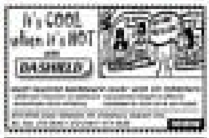
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



MARLOU Aquino (left) of Sta. Lucia Realty launches his patented under-armchair against Air21 import Steve Thomas.







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Phone Pals whip Kings

By Musong R. Castillo

Pacquiao leaves for Diaz fight today





Harbour, Hapee dribblers gun for 2-0 semis lead

MANDALUYONG CUP FINAL

Gabica thwarts Manalo



Tams seek solo lead vs Bulldogs

Pagulayan gains World Pool Masters semifinals



Aunzo, Rodriguez poised for RP romp



Three-stroke lead

Nike hoops: Eagles, Cards stay unbeaten

SPORTSWATCH

PCAP 5-cocker gets going today

SJC hosts 4-cock derby

Navy pugs extend Open reign

Chess leaders forge truce

PERMANENT AND NATURAL HAIR!



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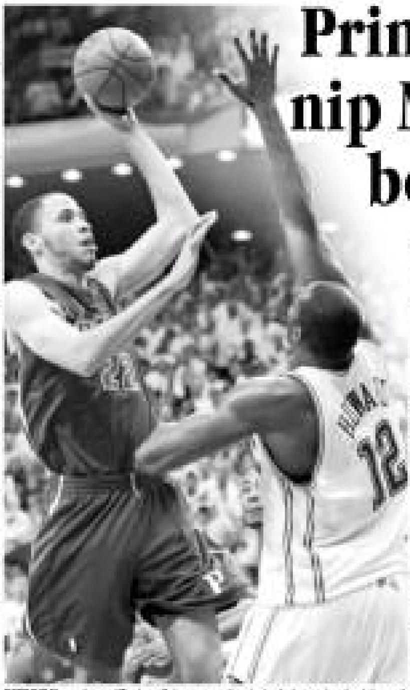
NISSAN TEST DRIVE

Retirements decide Rome finalists

Murakami ties for 13th

D'Antoni brings Suns basketball to New York

Prince, Pistons nip Magic; Cavs bounce back



Kovalainen eyes end of Massa's Turkey run

MICHELOB GOLF

Annika leads; Dorothy, J-Ro crash out

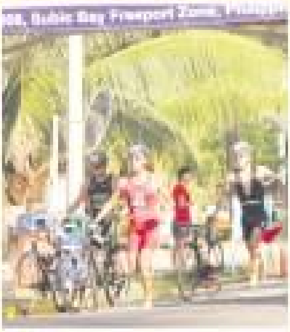
Goydos fires 70, grabs TPC golf lead



Hot-hitting Cebu rips Dumaguete

Taguig, Antipolo nines score





HK Olympian, Japan ace top Subic triathlon

Ladies winner

Herbalife double



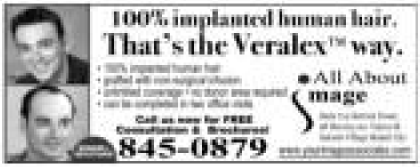
SPORTS

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

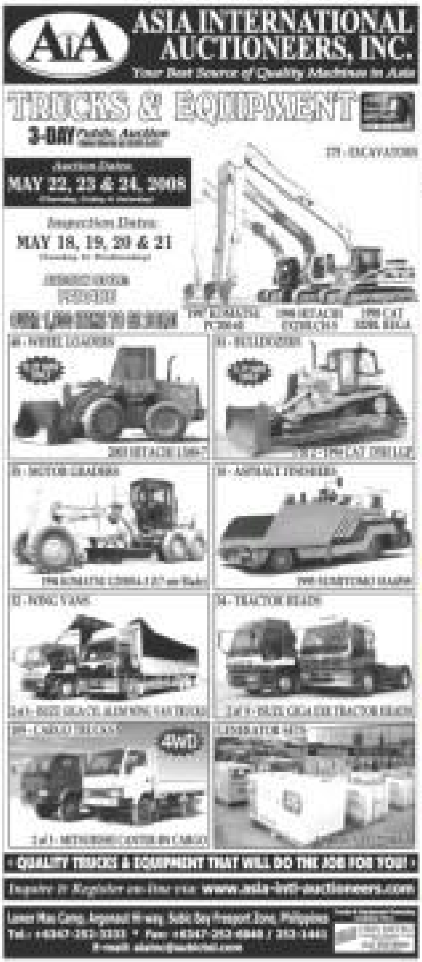
USJ-R, USLS stay in hunt



By Ronnie S. Aureo









Bulsain, Go at PSA Forum

BUSINESS

'08 inflation seen at fastest pace in 3 years

Bangko Sentral raises forecast to 5.5-6.5%

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen

AVERAGE CONSUMER PRICES IN THE PHILIPPINES MAY RISE this 2008 at the fastest pace in three years due to unabated increases in food and fuel prices, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest forecast.

42-45 to $1 in next 2 years

IN THIS ISSUE



RP urged to focus on trade with Europe

By Ronald W. Domingo

[illegible]

Moving targets

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito



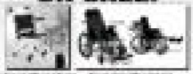
[illegible]

'08 inflation seen at fastest pace in 3 years

[illegible]



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STRONGHOLD INSURANCE COMPANY, INC

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT

As of December 31, 2006

ADMITTED ASSETS

Item	Amount
Bonds	[illegible]
Stocks	[illegible]
Real Estate	[illegible]
Security Fund	[illegible]
Cash on Hand and in Banks	[illegible]
Premiums Receivable	[illegible]
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies	[illegible]
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	[illegible]
Accrued Investment Income	[illegible]
Electronic Data Processing Machine	[illegible]
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	[illegible]

LIABILITIES

Item	Amount
Losses and Claims Payable	[illegible]
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable	[illegible]
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	[illegible]
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	[illegible]
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	[illegible]
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	[illegible]
Taxes Payable	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Other Liabilities	[illegible]
Total Liabilities	[illegible]

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Item	Amount
Capital Stock Paid-up	[illegible]
Contributed Surplus	[illegible]
Revaluation Reserve Stocks	[illegible]
Retained Earnings	[illegible]
Total Stockholders' Equity	[illegible]
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	[illegible]

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2006 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

BSP lowers 2008 export growth forecast to 6%

Imports also seen expanding by only 7%

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PHILCOPY

High interest rates seen to benefit gov't

₱1.1B for every percentage-point rise

Aboitiz unit earmarks ₱10B for power ventures

42-45 to $1 in next ...

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List of resellers:

Authorized Reseller

RCBC posted 6.6% drop in first quarter profit

Asset sale tempers decline

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCO-LED Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. reported a 6.6 percent drop in first quarter net profit on dwindling treasury gains, but cost-cutting measures and gains from the sale of idle property assets tempered the slowdown in earnings.

The bank reported on Friday a net income of P[illegible] million for the first quarter against the P[illegible] million made in the same period last year.

The drop in earnings, however, was more modest compared to the double-digit declines earlier reported by other big banks.

"Our first quarter results were affected by ongoing developments in the global capital markets and the increasing threat of higher inflation. We were able to offset the effects of the volatile financial environment with considerable recurring gains from asset disposals," RCBC president and CEO Lorenzo Tan said in a statement.

"Despite the increasingly challenging environment, our first quarter earnings are a testament to the success of the various initiatives undertaken to provide value offerings to our customers, enabled by a more cost efficient structure," Tan said.

Operating expenses stood 2 percent lower than the previous year's, holding back the profit decline. For instance, the bank reduced occupancy cost by relocating employees and other branches to lower-cost facilities and locations.

Anticipating a tougher securities trading environment and volatile interest rate scenario, RCBC took advantage of the strong property market by divesting a significant amount of foreclosed assets, compensating for the decline in the value of securities holdings.

RCBC's commissions and fees grew 20 percent to P1.4 billion from P1.1 billion in the first three months of 2007.

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FOR CLUB SHARES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 9, 2008)



Maybank

Currencies

PSE sells trading right of defunct securities firm

₱12.3-M offer broke record

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro



Lim

GOINGS-ON

ICT Professionals' Congress

PrintSoft launch

AIG PhilAm Bank forum

Sultan Mining banks on new markets

By Abigail L. Ho

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500,000 - 999,999	3.250	3.750	3.875	4.000
1.00M - 4.99MM	4.000	4.500	4.625	4.750
5.00M and up	4.250	4.750	4.875	5.000

Peso Time Deposit



DOE to award new coal, geothermal contracts

Energy chief says deals likely to be signed before end of May

Benguet posts P287-M profit

DA to distribute dryers in palay-producing areas





Vitarich moves to promote Pangasius production in RP

BFAR planting up to 6M mangrove saplings

Wall Street keeps eye on consumer as rally falters

Analyst on economy: 'It's for real, it's contagious, it's a slowdown'

Dollar, not supply, said to cause record oil

Citigroup to slash $400B in assets

Chinese banks vulnerable to interest rate gap change

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M.S. IN FINANCE



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Issue Size	A minimum of Php 5 billion
Offer Period	12 to 23 May 2008
Interest Rate	8.50% p.a.[1]
Interest Payment	Quarterly
Maturity	May 2018
Optional Redemption	May 2013
Minimum Investment	Php 500,000[2]
Roadshow	May 12 - Makati City

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BUSINESS

Bayan tops consumer poll on wireless landline

Company carves up sizeable slice of market

By Riza T. Olchondra

SIX OUT OF 10 FILIPINO SUBscribers prefer Bayan Telecommunications Inc.'s Bayan Wireless Landline (BWL) over other existing wireless landline plans in the market, a recent consumer survey shows.

The poll, conducted by the consumer research group of the Institute of Transformative Marketing Communications (ITMC), found that BWL was seen to have the widest coverage with the lowest costs in the local wireless landline industry.

BWL also has additional service features which subscribers found to be useful especially in a time of economic crisis.

The survey was conducted among 1,200 respondents in Metro Manila between March 23 and April 23, 2008.

Sixty percent of the respondents said they favor using a Bayan Wireless Landline phone than other brands in the market.

Respondents note that Bayan Wireless Landline offers P599 in its regional areas and P699 per month in Metro Manila with unlimited calls.

In comparison, PLDT Landline Plus (P600/month) and Globe Landline Wireless (P999/month) only give 500 free texts.

Bayan Wireless Landline also has the lowest NDD rates, fifty cents lower than PLDT Landline Plus and Globe.

BWL's cell phone rate is P6 lower than Globe's Landline offering.

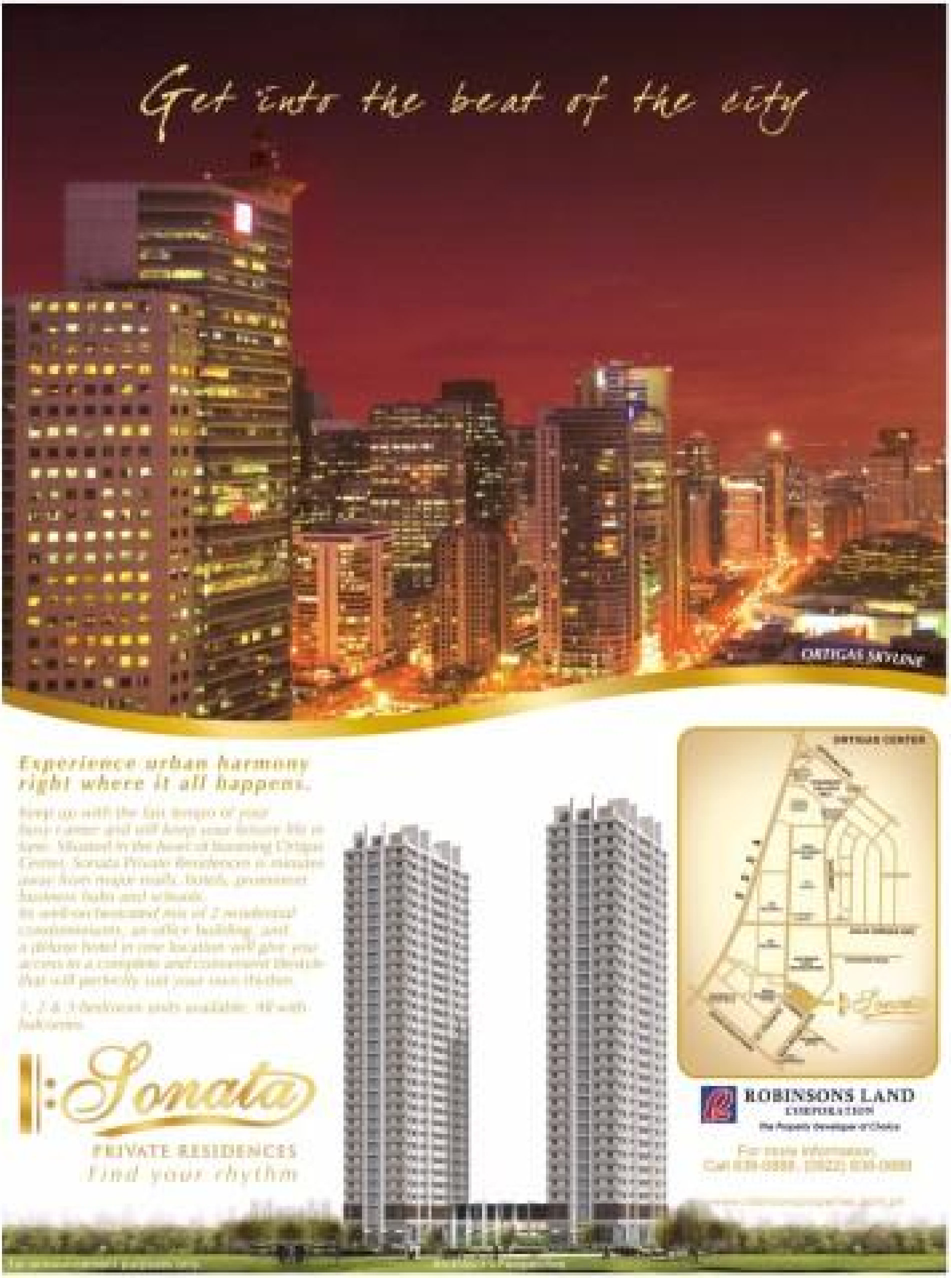
The poll found that the lower NDD and cell phone rates were important to respondents, especially cost-conscious subscribers affected by high prices of goods and inflation.

Poll respondents also note the valuable service features of the BWL: Caller ID, phonebook, call forwarding, 3-way calling, speed dialing, security PIN, ring tones, loudspeakers and call waiting—features that respondents find appealing and unique only to Bayan Wireless Landline.

John Ruiz, Bayan vice president for corporate brand and communications, welcomed the survey results.

He said the results reflected BWL's good reception from the public since Bayan rolled out the service a year ago.

Bayan said it is the third biggest telecommunications company with over 160,000 wireless landline subscribers.



BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Wise resource use matters more than size

Globe's operating margins are higher than larger firms around the region

By Daniel L. Lucas

IT WAS AN UNUSUAL SIGHT to behold.

During the penultimate press conference of the Ayala group's annual stockholders' meeting season, the head of the country's largest and oldest business conglomerate, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, lauded Globe Telecom Inc. and its president Gerry Ablaza for the firm's performance last year.

It was uncommon because the Ayala Corp. chief heaped praises on Globe and his team despite the fact that Globe stood a few million mobile phone subscribers behind its larger rival, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

It was stranger still that Zobel seemed unperturbed by the fact that his family's phone business stood nowhere near striking distance of the number one spot in the country's lucrative telecommunications business over the near term.

"What is more important for us is profitability," Zobel said, as he explained the company's philosophy of creating value for its stakeholders by implementing policies whose effects reach far into the future, rather than being obsessed with size.

"Certainly, the level of profitability of Globe is impressive for a company of that size," he said.

How then did Globe manage to become the country's most efficient telecommunications firm, with operating margins even higher than larger companies around the region?

The answer may lie in the way the company manages its resources, specifically, in the way it allocates and spends capital.

According to Globe's corporate program management division head Mario Domingo, the company's commitment to efficiency leads it to adopt the "project management" approach in deciding practically every single undertaking of the company, from the largest, most expensive projects, to the smallest.

"Project management is an enabler of strategy," he said. "It is a process we've adopted, and it helps the company capture knowledge through this process."

Recently, Globe Telecom received an accreditation as a project managed organiza-

WISE RESOURCE B2-4



GLOBE corporate program management division head Mario Domingo



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MAPping the Future

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Prescription

Rising interest rates

Wise resource use matters more than size



Firm lists clients

What kind of a leader are you?

Resort leads in saving Taal Lake



Business Monday

Coffee business brewing merrily in RP



Starbucks plans to open 30 more branches in the country



RP hosts 2008 World Pyro Olympics

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B3
BUSINESS Monday



Filipinos among most receptive to designer brands

AN IMPROVING ECONOMY AND THE rapid opening up of various markets in Asia have given rise to a group of affluent consumers who are eager to adopt the latest fashion trends. According to the latest Nielsen Global Luxury Brands Study, consumers in Hong Kong lead the region as Asia Pacific's most designer brand-conscious.

Following Hong Kong (38 percent) as the most brand conscious market in Asia are India (35 percent), and the Philippines (26 percent). And despite the prevalence of imitation designer-branded goods in some markets, over half of consumers do not think imitation products match up to the real deal, led by Japan (69 percent), Taiwan (60 percent) and China (58 percent).

In the Philippines, Calvin Klein is the top brand most Filipinos buy at 40 percent with a majority at 62 percent still patronize their local designers.

As the global study reveals, if money were no object, Louis Vuitton (29 percent), Chanel (18 percent), Gucci (17 percent) are the most coveted brands among consumers in Asia Pacific.

The appeal of Louis Vuitton is strongest in Asia, with the world's top 10 markets that most aspire to the French brand all hailing from Asia, led by the Philippines (42 percent, also topping the world), Hong Kong and Singapore (each at 40 percent).

Another long-established French brand, Chanel, is the second most coveted brand in Asia Pacific and if money were no object, is most attractive to consumers in China (41 percent), Korea (38 percent) and Taiwan (30 percent), whose aspirations not only topped the Asia Pacific region but topped the world as the most pro-Chanel consumers.

Meanwhile, India (41 percent), the Philippines (39 percent) and Indonesia (37 percent) top the region with people most aspiring to the Italian brand Gucci. At 41 percent, India actually tops the world with most people wishing to buy a Gucci product if money were no object. It's worth noting that the level of desire among Asian consumers to buy Chanel and Christian Dior increased by six and four percentage points respectively, compared to two years ago when the Nielsen survey was last conducted.

"Asia is considered by many international brands as a major sales region, with the improving personal financial status of Asian consumers and with the opening up of vast and developing markets, there is huge room for growth in the luxury sector," said [illegible] L. Chi Jr., managing director of The Nielsen Company Philippines.

Horizon for designer brands

Designer brand appeal has certainly spread across sectors. According to the Nielsen survey, consumers in Asia Pacific "approved" the potential of a crossover product between a designer fashion brand and a new technology gadget—58 percent would buy a mobile phone that was co-branded with a luxury brand—an area already tapped into by fashion giant like Prada.

The survey, conducted in November 2007, polled about 26,312 Internet users in 48 markets. 501 interviews were conducted in the Philippines.

Brands Filipinos buy

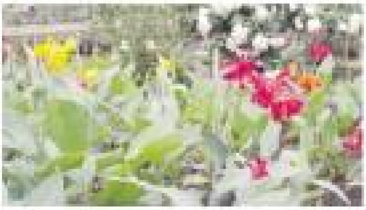
Brand	%
Calvin Klein	40%
Ralph Lauren	28%
Diesel	26%
DKNY	25%
[illegible]	20%
Gucci	18%
Giorgio Armani	13%
Louis Vuitton	11%
Christian Dior	10%
Chanel	8%
Burberry	7%
Prada	6%
Versace	5%
Ferragamo	4%
[illegible]	4%
Valentino	3%
Hermes	1%
Fendi	1%
[illegible]	1%
Givenchy	1%
Miu Miu	1%
Local designers [illegible]	62%
None of these	12%



Farmer creates paradise in his farm









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Doña Maria premium rice: An emerging Filipino brand



Black belter goes for black pearls





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Bank launches 'free' campaign

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas



BUSINESS Monday

Filipinos pay premium to travel 'ala-business class on wheels'

By Gil C. Cabacungan

VICTORY LINER, THE COUNTRY'S largest bus company, is betting on a resurgence in the north face of Philippine tourism as local travelers make do with a smaller vacation money in the face of the rising cost of oil and basic commodities such as rice.

Victory Liner marketing and treasury manager Marivic del Pilar says the bus company has deployed a fleet of luxury coaches to entice local tourists to hit the road this summer and discover Northern Luzon's scenic spots under its "Northern Exposure" program, a tourism promotion project with the Department of Tourism.

"More people are finding ways to go on vacation on a budget with the cost of air travel making trips to Cebu, Bohol, Boracay

Many are finding ways to go on vacation on a budget



and Palawan quite prohibitive. Some resort owners in the south are complaining that business isn't that good anymore as in the past few years and this is largely due to cost cutting by corporations and individuals," says Del Pilar.

Del Pilar says that the growing cost consciousness among local tourists have made Northern Luzon an "alluring alternative" for holidays and conventions. "We believe that Northern Luzon has its own tourism jewels but these are not as aggressively promoted by the DOT. With the completion of the North Luzon expressway and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway, going to the north has become quicker and less hassle," says Del Pilar.

Del Pilar says Victory Liner's move to branch out into the hotel business has allowed it to reach base with DOT officials. "We felt that if local tourists would be assured of clean and safe travel and lodging facilities, more tourists would flock to Northern Luzon and they agreed with our views," says Del Pilar.

The Northern Exposure project gives tourists a detailed information of the best hotels, shopping malls and restaurants located in tourism spots north of Manila that are within the route of Victory Liner's 700-strong fleet such as Baguio, Pangasinan, Zambales, Ilocos, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cagayan Valley and Nueva [illegible].

Victory Liner has peppered its terminals with various promotion materials to arouse travelers of the attractions in North Luzon.

Del Pilar believes that the key to the Northern Exposure program is making bus travel acceptable to class A and B consumers. "We have had feedback from expats of multinational corporations and North Luzon-based businessmen who have stopped bringing their car after embracing bus travel," says Del Pilar. "We think that most of them have discovered that bus travel isn't that bad anymore. It's not just for agents, vendors or farmers."

Del Pilar credits her company's decision to offer deluxe buses plying Cagayan Valley and Baguio that boast of economy travel, bigger leg room, clean toilets and attendants who attend to all the passengers' needs. "We're surprised at the turnout for our luxury coaches, all our trips are fully booked. I used to have doubts on whether Filipinos would pay premium just to travel ala-business class on wheels. But now I don't have any," says Del Pilar.





BUSINESS Monday



Getting high on Kapangan silk

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KAPANGAN, BENGUET—Fabric makers are starting to notice this town's rare quality silk but local officials and industry stakeholders said farmers and cocoon raisers were not yet ready to supply bulk buyers.

The demand for the town's silk had surpassed current levels of production and Mayor Robert Canuto said this was because the industry was still in its growing stage.

"Our silk industry is still in its formative years. But we expect it to bloom in the next two to three years," he said.

Canuto is confident of the industry's future after the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Gov. Nestor Fongwan pledged financial assistance to complete the needed cocoon-rearing houses.

The town and the provincial fiber office were also negotiating for the transport of a reeling machine from San Fernando City in La Union that could spin one to three tons of silk in one workload.

Lately, businessman Jack Ordonez, owner of the Jack's Restaurant chain in Benguet and Baguio City, bought 3 hectares of land in this town to be planted with mulberry.

"We didn't expect that our town's reputation as the silk producer of the Cordillera would spread this fast," Canuto said.

He said the town needs around 200 ha for mulberry production in the next three years to meet the demand from fabric shop owners and textile companies.

[illegible], provincial fiber development officer, said the town has only 8.25 ha devoted to mulberry cultivation.

"We need wider mulberry plantations to become commercially competitive," she said.

But the quality of silk that the town produces has already won the attention of a cocoon market, which in effect, has inspired more farmers to go into cocoon raising and mulberry cultivation.

SEE [illegible] B4-2



300 TO 400 cocoons, with a combined weight of 1 kg, could produce a kilogram of raw silk.



KAPANGAN adopted silk as its "One Town, One Product." [illegible]



Getting high on Kapangan silk

From page B1



THE FINISHED product

"The silk's quality has become the town's built-in comparative advantage," Donato said.

Buyers from Kalibo, Aklan, for instance, bought 8.5 kilograms of silk in February.

Now, they want to be supplied at least 50 kg of raw silk a month which the town could not produce, Canuto said, since maximum monthly production is only 15 kg.

The town, which adopted silk as its "One Town, One Product," produced 285 kg of fresh cocoons in 2005, 391 kg in 2006 and 451 kg in 2007.

But business prospects aside, silk production here became doubly significant because it helped break the town's image as a major source of marijuana in the country.

Kapangan, Kibungan and Bakun used to be called the "Golden Triangle" because of widespread marijuana cultivation.

Local officials decided to embark on a massive crop alternative program for marijuana farmers by offering sunflowers, ramie, anthurium and mulberry as substitutes.



HOME farmers are going into cocoon raising and mulberry cultivation.

"The sunflowers were a little bit okay, now that it could not easily penetrate corporate buyers," Canuto said.

But the cash crop ramie, which the Philippine National Police (PNP) pushed to eradicate marijuana, was the greatest disappointment after farmers found out that it was not a practical substitute, Canuto said.

"The market was not responding. Farmers also complained that ramie was too heavy to carry from the farms to the market. The new crop was considered useless and lost its popularity simply waned," he said.

Canuto said anthurium suffered the same fate.

"There were buyers but local varieties commanded low market value, thus enticing only a few farmers," he said. "But thanks to mulberry and silk, the town can now be declared 'marijuana-free,'" Canuto said.

Today, more farmers have expressed interest to join the Kapangan Environmental Livelihood Multi-Purpose Cooperative and be included among the 72 farmers who would benefit from the completion of 20 rearing houses for more than 40,000 silkworms.

The silkworms, Donato said, would feed on mulberry leaves and then later spin cocoons.

Donato said 500 to 600 cocoons, with a combined weight of 100 kg, could produce a kilogram of raw silk. Around 3 to 3.5 kg of silk is needed to make one [illegible].

Kapangan silk raisers sell their [illegible] at P3,900 apiece.

[illegible], a farmer from Cuba village, said he could earn P4,500 in 18 to 22 days by simply raising cocoons to be sold at P800 a kilogram. He earns 25 centavos for each pencil-sized mulberry cutting, which means he would get as much as P5,000 if he could produce 20,000 pieces.

The town's silk industry is still young in terms of production because the areas devoted to mulberry are just enough, local officials said.

Only nine of the town's 15 villages adopted cocoon production—[illegible], Pongayan and [illegible].

The 20 rearing houses were completed after [illegible] P1 million each in financial assistance. The Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) provided technical support.



SILK production helped break the town's image as a major source of marijuana in the country



TOWN needs around 200 hectares for mulberry production in the next three years to meet the demand from fabric shop owners and textile companies.

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InfoTech

The androids are coming

By Mario Ramirez
Contributor

THE BUZZ that circulated during the World Mobile Congress in Barcelona, Spain focused on android phones.

So what exactly is an android?





An artist's rendition of the Google android phone.

Google says do more than search

By Riza T. Olchondra



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LIFESTYLE
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan
Arts and books Editor: Lito B. Zulueta



Uncle Sam's linking arms in the Philippines

MANUEL L. Quezon Memorial Bridge in Quiapo, Manila. Built in 1938, it is also known as the Quiapo Bridge and was built to replace the aging Puente Colgante, the famous suspension bridge during the Spanish era.

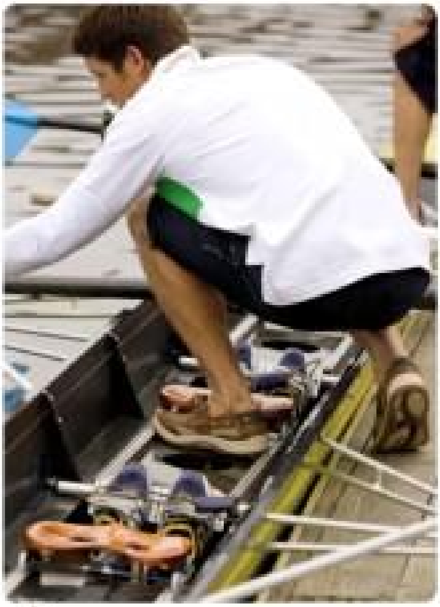
National Heritage Month mounts a historico-architectural exhibit of American colonial bridges

Text and photos by Manuel Maximo Lopez del Castillo-Noche
Contributor

WHEN ONE TRAVELS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE country, one is greeted with a myriad of sceneries, from pristine beaches with powder-fine sand to azure seas with a forest of corals underneath, majestic mountains with profiles that test the most

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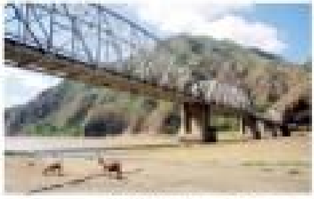




Uncle Sam's linking arms in the Philippines









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PBT and National Artist Salvador Bernal team up to stage Filipino epic

Male artist 'writes' the female

Jeff Dizon pays tribute to Filipina OFWs and calls for an end to violence against women

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

FEMINIST SCHOLARS believe writing the body or l'ecriture feminine, is not a possibility only for female writers but also for male authors.

It may seem ironic, but a lot of male artists have portrayed l'ecriture feminine by not only being bold and aggressive in terms of representation but also by insightful portrayal and depictions.

Such is the case with artist Jeff Dizon, whose "Lakbay," "Tabag," and "Mag-ina" series, exhibited at Chaler Expression Gallery, reveal the body poetics that render female bodies as contorted, eroticized or idealized.

Labor of women

With their contorted limbs and feet and angular faces and hardened muscles, Dizon's women are not the typical women romanticized in movies and pop culture. They resemble more the hardworking female labor force that keeps this country's economy afloat.

They are the bodies of domestic helpers and workers our country has sent to the United States, Japan, Europe and the Middle East. Often with hardly any support from the government, and ridiculed and looked down upon by outsiders and [illegible] folks, these women defy all forms of alienation and brave in silence all indignation and maltreatment from their abusive employers.

It is not unexpected, therefore, that Dizon would pay tribute to these women by naming the works as "Lakbay" series. After all, the works do not just show how our women have changed over the past years, their inner journey toward enlightenment that "bourgeois" women in general wish for, but how Filipinas have literally traveled all over the world to provide for their families here.

"Lakbay" reveals the inherent contradiction of our life, an ugly truth we have long suppressed—that women have been behind all the things that we have enjoyed and reaped in this country.

Roland Tolentino calls our economy the vaginal economy insofar as the vagina becomes the metaphor and metonymic register of the seeming absence of women in the final composition of our gross national product.

Hence, for Dizon, the body of a woman in every work is rendered grotesque because the apt body politic for this nation's malaise.

Other forms of violence

Dizon's employment of body poetics extends to the eroticization of the female body.

His "Tabag" and "Mag-ina" series tell us the power of seduction women have over men, which for generations has accursed them and depicted them as fearsome monsters based on myth and oral lore.

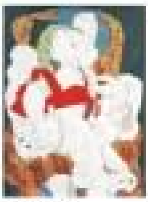
Therefore, Dizon's depiction of the grotesque and eroticized body offers a counter-myth, echoing what Angela Manalang Gloria insinuates in her poem "Soledad," where a wretched and accursed woman finds heaven in the depths of hell.

In the end, Dizon does not just want an end to violence against women; he, like all of us, wants an end to all forms of violence.

Jeff Dizon's "Recent Works" opens May 16, 6 p.m., at Chaler Expression Gallery, 2F Eseko Construction Bldg., 122 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-0778.



"LAKBAY" 2



"MAG-INA" 1



ABOVE: "Tabag" 2. Right: "Lakbay" 1





"TABAG" 1

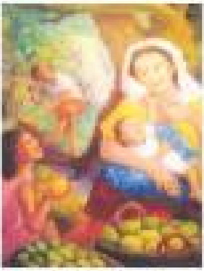


"MAG-INA" 2





Visual Arts



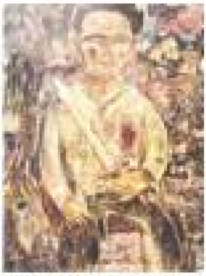
"PAMILYA sa Anihan," by Soliman Cruz

Landa artists at De la Isla

[illegible]

Kim at ArtistSpace

"Inspiration" by Carlo H. J. Kim opens on May 15 at ArtistSpace, [illegible]



"SELF-PORTRAIT with Double Edged Sword"

Garcia at West

[illegible]



"VIOLIN'S Box," by Carlo H.J. Kim



"BATO ng Buhay"

Cancer survivor at Arte Pintura

[illegible]

Decena at Alcove

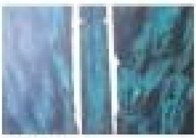
[illegible]

'Botong' et al. at Met

[illegible]

Sison at White Box

[illegible]



"I BELIEVE in You"

Yu at Finale

[illegible]



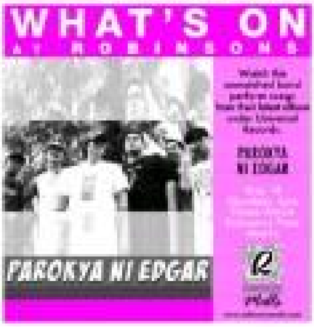
LIFESTYLE





[illegible]





Yes, you, too, can bid at auctions

By [illegible]
Contributor

> On Oct. 17, 51 Filipino paintings will be auctioned off in Singapore as part of Borobudur's Southeast Asian art bidding

ON THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN art market today, the buzz seems to be the "auction."

[illegible]

Actual presence

[illegible]

Absentee bidder

[illegible]

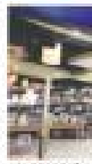
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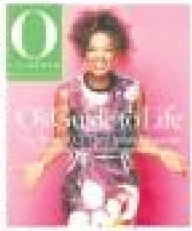


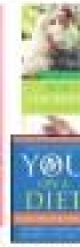


Bookstore opens in C



Oprah's reading club on Hallma

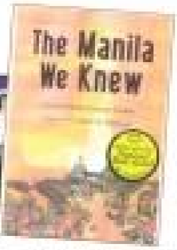


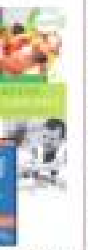




Old Manila







Yuppie inspirational







Yes, you, too, can bid at auctions

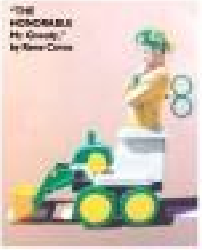


Phone bid

Auction process

Gentleman's word













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DOING THINGS IN A GRAND MANNER



Bach and Brahms at Pundaquit festival

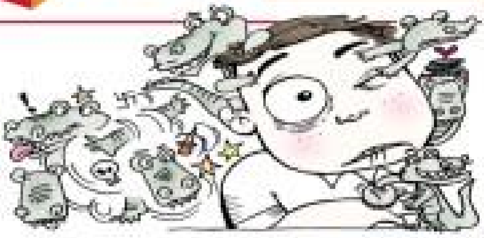
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How can we teach values in a corrupt society?

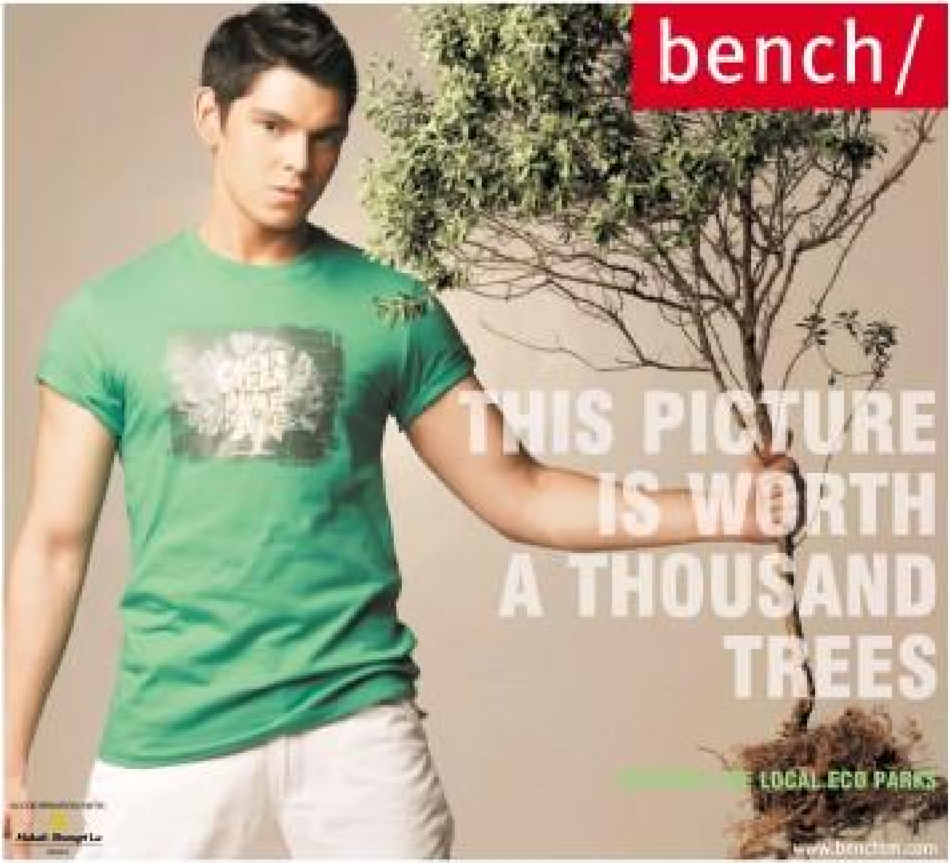


By J. M. Luz

> Tell the truth, demand the truth, stand by the truth—but these are not the messages national leaders convey to our children

Half-truths

Good place to start



CLASS ACT



AWAKENING

Playgrounds of the MIND

ROLL CALL

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UPLB gives Alaminos its cultural troupe



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Lessons my mother taught me



Eureka!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

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Remember to play

Help others as best you can

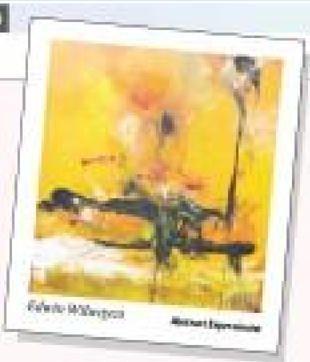


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FOOTNOTES

Multisectoral conference on education May 25-27

US award for artwork

INQUIRER in EDUCATION

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A lesson plan on advertising

Today's lesson

Objective

Materials

Procedures

Extension

Activity sheet

Strategy	Product/Service	Section/Page	How is the strategy used?
Attractive model			
Celebrity endorser			
Contest/coupon			
Emotional appeal			
Facts/statistics			
Graphic/design			
Humor			
Peer pressure			
Price comparison			
Slogan			
Other			

Assignment: DepEd

Look, Ma, no fees

Automatic enrollment for public school students

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Bronnie O. Velarde

Third boy for Mikee & Dodot

MIKEE COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI AND HUSBAND DODOT JAworski are proud parents to Renzo Mikael, right, born on May 8, 10:46 a.m., in Makati. He's the couple's third child, following Robert, 9, and Rafael, 6. Mikee's manager Girlie Rodis says Renzo "looks hefty and, at 21 inches, is quite a big boy." Rodis also says that, although Mikee is in pain after the Cesarean section, she is in high spirits and was set to go home yesterday.

Bayani San Diego Jr.





Benefit sparkles with father-daughter acts



TRUDIE STYLER AND STING'S Rainforest Foundation Fund staged the 15th "Some Kinda Legacy" benefit concert on May 9th at New York's Carnegie Hall. Among the best applauded performers were Billy Joel and daughter Alexa Ray (bottom left), Sting and daughter Coco Sumner (left), and James Taylor and daughter Sally (right). NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg issued a proclamation declaring the month of May "Rainforest Awareness Month." The Empire State Building glowed green on the evening of the benefit.

Reuters









More than just a gay film

By Marinel R. Cruz





WILL FREDO

TAKE FIVE

MARCUS MADRIGAL

Pop singer and West End star share a stellar role

By Bayani San Diego Jr.





INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Christian as Tony







RAYMOND Lauchengco (far L), says they couldn't do this earlier, as they were "competitors." Now he's "good friends" with (from R) Louie Heredia, Gino Padilla, Randy Santiago.

That delightful '80s show

THEY'RE THROWBACKS to "hot lover" and be "bookean."

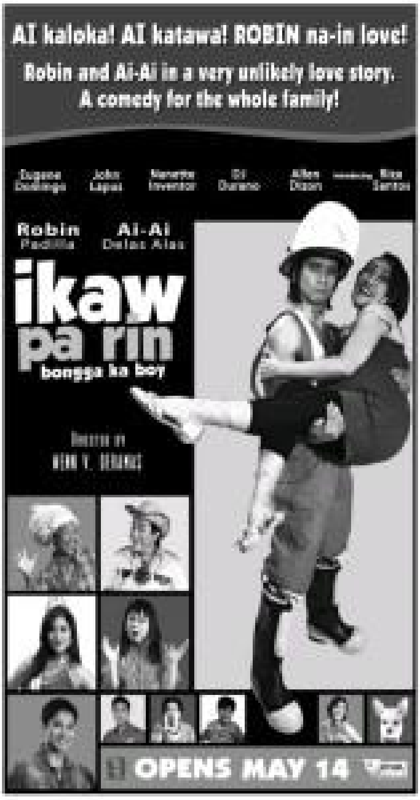
Louie Heredia, Raymond Lauchengco, Gino Padilla and Randy Santiago are poised to rewind to a decade they know so well, via a two-night concert dubbed "Greatest Hits of the '80s" on May 16 and 17 at the Music Museum in Greenhills.

Expect the former pop idols to dish out their bestselling songs, and their contemporaries' as well. The guys have also worked on a "kitschy yet delightful" production number featuring '80s movie theme songs. They're set to cap the night with some of the biggest dance tunes of the period.

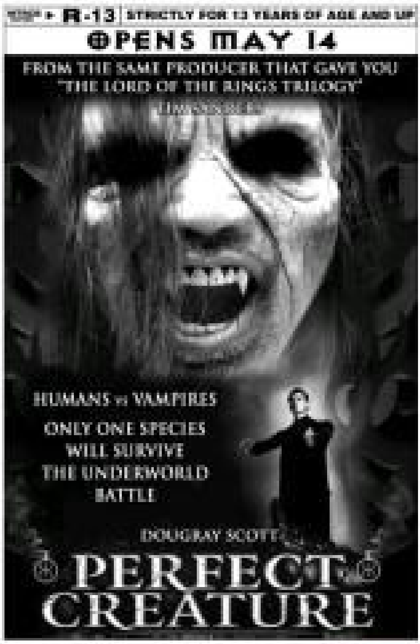
Fun, funtime

"It's going to be a fun concert that will involve the audience. I suggest they bring extra shirts because they will surely sweat it out," says Heredia.

"I think this is the funniest show I've ever been part of," quips Lauchengco. "It's both crazy and nostalgic. We couldn't do this in the '80s because we were competitors. But now we're good friends and very comfortable about who we are, which makes the music even better."



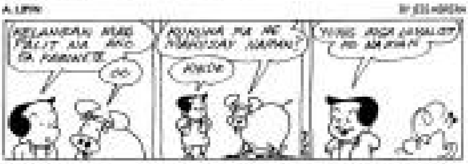




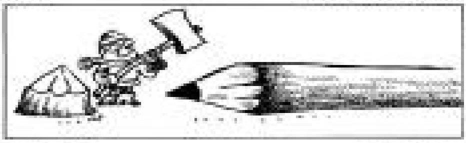




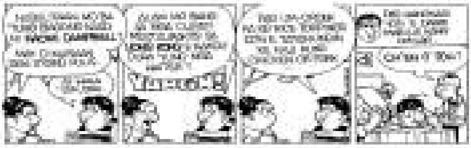
A. LIPIN



TULDOK



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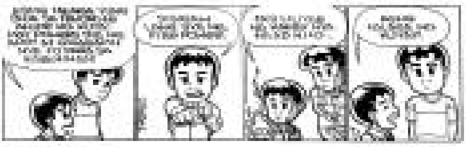


DIVINE COMEDY



GARFIELD



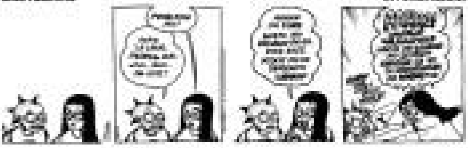


BABY BLUES

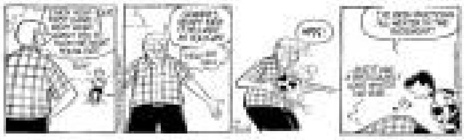




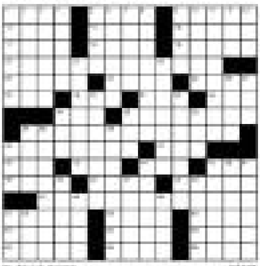


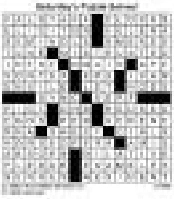


BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

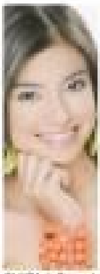
CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

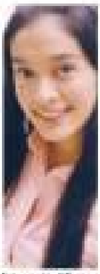
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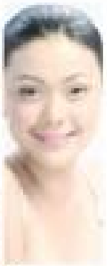
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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Golden Screen Awards nominees announced







GLAIZA de Castro, Ina Feleo and Jodi Santamaria





THE ENTERTAINMENT Press Society or Enpress, Inc. has announced the nominees for this year's 5th Golden Screen Awards (GSA), slated in June.

Seven movies are vying for Best Motion Picture (Drama), while only two made it as finalists in the Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) category.

■ Nominees for Best Motion Picture (Drama) are: "Endo" (UFO Pictures Production); "Foster Child" (Seiko Films); "[illegible]" ([illegible] Productions, Inc.); "[illegible]" ([illegible] Pictures); "[illegible]" (Seiko Arts Production); "Still Life" ([illegible] Production); and "Tirador" (Centerstage Productions).

■ The two-way fight for Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) is between "Katas ng Saudi" (Maverick Films) and "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (Star Cinema).

The number 7

■ Seven seems to be the lucky number for this year's GSA as seven actresses are vying for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role (Drama). They are Cherry Pie Picache ("Foster Child"), Glaiza de Castro ("Still Life"), Ina Feleo ("Endo"), Jaclyn Jose ("[illegible]"), Jodi Santamaria-Lacson ("[illegible]"), [illegible] Aguilar ("[illegible]"), and Maricel Soriano ("A Love Story").

Picache and Soriano are both previous GSA awardees. Picache won as 2004 Best Actress (Comedy) for "Bridal Shower" and was named 2006 Best Supporting Actress for "Midnight Dancers". Soriano won the 2005 Best Actress (Drama) for "[illegible]" (in a tie with [illegible], who won for "[illegible]").

Jose has consistently been a nominee and has a finalists' certificate for "[illegible]" (2006). De Castro, Feleo, Lacson and Aguilar are nominated for the first time.

■ Finalists for Best Performance by An Actor in Drama are: Coco Martin ("[illegible]"), Jason Abalos ("Endo"), John Lloyd Cruz ("One More Chance"), Robin Padilla ("Blackout"), [illegible] ("[illegible]"), and Sid Lucero ("Selda").

Padilla previously won as 2003 Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy for "[illegible]" while Lucero was the 2006 Breakthrough Performance by An Actor awardee for "[illegible]."

■ Vying for the Best Performance by an Actress (Musical or Comedy) trophy are: Judy Ann Santos ("Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo"), [illegible] ("Katas ng Saudi") and [illegible] ("You Got Me").

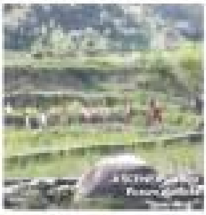
Nominees night

Santos has won three trophies from GSA, namely: Best Supporting Actress (2003) for "[illegible]", Best Actress (Drama) for "[illegible]" (2005) and Best Actress (Musical or Comedy) for "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" (2006).

■ Competing for Best Performance by An Actor (Musical or Comedy) are: Jinggoy Estrada ("Katas ng Saudi"), Ryan Agoncillo ("Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo") and [illegible] ("Happy Hearts").

■ Best Director contenders are: [illegible] ("[illegible]"), [illegible] ("[illegible]"), [illegible] Mendoza ("Tirador"), [illegible] ("[illegible]"), Jade Francis Castro ("Endo"), and Jose Javier Reyes ("Katas ng Saudi"). All of them are first-time nominees.

Enpress is holding a Nominees' Night May 20 at the The Library Bar in Malate.







A SHOW TOO BIG
FOR JUST ONE CHANNEL

TV viewers are in for an action-packed, bone crunching, and adrenaline-pumping treat with the return of one of the most high-powered TV competition shows of all-time: American Gladiators! Hosted by iconic wrestler Hulk Hogan and the lovely professional boxer Laila Ali, the all new American Gladiators with its re-energized format will be seen on both free and cable TV, not just on one but on two channels: C/S on RPN and Jack TV in an unprecedented move to showcase the magnitude of this highly anticipated TV competition.

American Gladiators will pit 24 contenders in three rounds of challenges where the final man and woman left standing will win a $100,000 top prize and the chance to become Gladiators themselves. These everyday amateur athletes all have a unique story to tell and have a gripping reason why they need to win, but it won't be easy as they will have to go against the show's tough, compelling group of gladiators in the ultimate David & Goliath battle.

The show has been given a fresh twist using special effects and the latest technology, like the Joust (where opponents have to knock each other off using sticks), the Assault (where Contenders have to dodge balls while firing weapons at the Gladiators) and the Powerball (where Contenders have to slam dunk balls into cylinders to score). New events like the Earthquake (where a Contender and a Gladiator will wrestle on a platform moving above the ground) will provide even higher thrills and energy.

The ultimate TV event that is American Gladiators premieres on C/S on RPN this May 8, Thursday at 9pm. Jack TV viewers will enjoy the action starting May 12, Monday at 7pm.



ENTERTAINMENT



His other birthday gift





Off-cam, 'Prinsesa ng Banyera' set

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

Depressed

Comparison is odious

Picking up the pieces

'What's on Weekend'



Mother's Day special on 'i-Witness' tonight

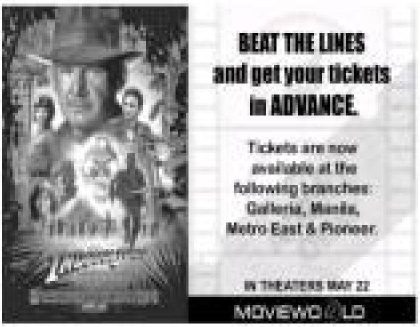
Click!



What would happen?

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING





At the Cinemas

Cinema							
GLORIETTA 1	1 IRON MAN	2 SPEED RACER	3 DECEPTION	4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS			
GLORIETTA 4	1 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	2 SPEED RACER	3 SPEED RACER	4 SPEED RACER	5 IRON MAN	6 IRON MAN	7 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
GREENBELT 1	1 IRON MAN	2 SPEED RACER					
GREENBELT 3	1 IRON MAN	2 SPEED RACER	3 IRON MAN	4 SPEED RACER	5 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 SPEED RACER	2 SPEED RACER	3 IRON MAN	4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	5 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SPEED RACER	2 IRON MAN	3 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 SPEED RACER	2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	3 SPEED RACER	4 IRON MAN	5 WHEN LOVE BEGINS		
TRINOMA	1 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	3 DECEPTION	4 IRON MAN	5 IRON MAN	6 SPEED RACER	7 SPEED RACER

At the Malls

Ayala Malls

Glorietta

Greenbelt

Alabang Town Center

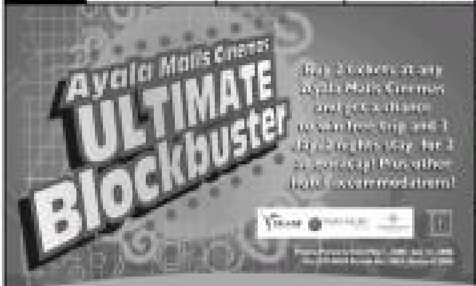
Ayala Center Cebu

Market! Market!

Onestage

Ayala Museum

TriNoma





Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! TriNoma

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 IRON MAN	6 SPEED RACER
2 IRON MAN	7 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
3 DECEPTION	8 IndieSine: ROXXXANNE
4 SPEED RACER	9 FLOWING
5 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	10 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM



ERMITA

1 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS

2 SPEED RACER	6 DECEPTION
3 IRON MAN	7 SPEED RACER
4 IRON MAN	8 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
5 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	9 FLOWING

METRO EAST

1 SUPERHERO MOVIE	5 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	6 IRON MAN
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	7 SPEED RACER
4 DECEPTION	8 FLOWING

NOVALICHES

1 SPEED RACER	3 IRON MAN
2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	4 DECEPTION

PIONEER

1 SPEED RACER	3 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
2 IRON MAN	4 DECEPTION

Roxxxanne

Showing exclusively at Robinsons MOVIEWORLD Indiesine

May 7 to 13



STA. ROSA

1 IRON MAN
2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
3 SPEED RACER
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

LIPA

1 IRON MAN
2 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
3 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
4 SPEED RACER

DASMARIÑAS

1 IRON MAN
2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
3 SPEED RACER
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

IMUS

1 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
2 IRON MAN
3 SPEED RACER
4 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS

ANGELES

1 IRON MAN	3 SPEED RACER
2 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	4 STREET KINGS

STARMILLS

1 STREET KINGS	4 POSSESSED
2 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	5 IRON MAN
3 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM	6 SPEED RACER

BACOLOD

1 IRON MAN
2 SHUTTER / SPEED RACER
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
5 NIM'S ISLAND
6 SEMI-PRO

ILOILO

1 SPEED RACER
2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 IRON MAN
5 SUPERHERO MOVIE
6 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM

SM CINEMA movietime



METRO MANILA

IMAX

SPEED RACER

T-REX

THE PODIUM

IRON MAN
SPEED RACER
RESERVED



TRAVEL-AND-RELAX PROMO

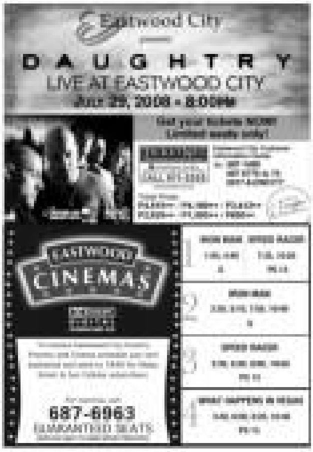
LUZON

VISAYAS · MINDANAO



When Pinoy rock croaked, and breathed again







WE WERE GIDDY AT THE thought of watching Pepe Smith on stage—a rare treat for those of us who turned on to Pinoy rock when he was already considered a legend.



Review

Another look at 'Fiesta ng Musikang Pilipino,' when Mike Hanopol did a Mike Velarde and Pepe Smith saved the day

Fantastic choice

The comedian

